

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00  
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UNCLAS LONDON 01409

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ILO  
SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES, JANUARY 1978

SUMMARY - THE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR JANUARY 1978  
ANNOUNCED (JANUARY 24) BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT  
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SHOW AN INCREASE OVER DECEMBER OF 67,722 IN THE CRUDE  
TOTAL OF UNEMPLOYED; MOST OF THE INCREASE IS EXPLAINED  
BY SEASONAL FACTORS. THE TOTAL REGISTERED AS  
UNEMPLOYED IS NOW 1.55 MILLION AND REPRESENTS 6.5 PERCENT OF  
THE UK WORKING POPULATION. THE UK FIGURES, AFTER  
SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 300 TO 1.43  
MILLION (6.0 PER CENT OF THE WORKING POPULATION). THE

BEST NEWS FOR THE GOVERNMENT WAS THE INCREASE IN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED VACANCIES REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, UP BY 20,100 TO 182,800; TUC LEADERS REPORTEDLY TOLD CHANCELLOR DENIS HEALEY THAT THE TUC ESTIMATED IT WAS COSTING THE COUNTRY 4.5 BILLION POUNDS A YEAR TO MAINTAIN THE 1.5 MILLION UNEMPLOYED AND THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE FURTHER EXPANSIONARY BUDGETARY MEASURES IN THE SPRING. -END SUMMARY

1. THE PUBLICATION OF THE MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES INDICATES NO CHANGE IN THE RELATIVELY STATIC MOVEMENT OF RECENT MONTHS ARE CONTINUING. THOUGH THERE WAS A 67,722 INCREASE IN THE TOTAL ON THE JOBLESS REGISTER, AFTER SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT THE INCREASE IN THE UK IS REDUCED TO ONLY 300. THE FULL STATISTICS FOR THE UK AND GREAT BRITAIN ARE GIVEN IN THE TABLE BELOW. THE PUBLICATION OF THE DATA PRODUCED A SCATHING COMMONS ATTACK FROM THE OPPOSITION LEADER ON THE PRIME MINISTER, THOUGH CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THE NEW DATA SUGGESTS THAT THE SITUATION IS NOT DETERIORATING -- AND A POSITIVE FACTOR IS THE 20,100 INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VACANCIES.

2. TRADE UNION REACTION WAS CRITICAL WITH LEN MURRAY CLAIMING THAT EVERY UNEMPLOYED WORKER COST AN AVERAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF 3,000 POUNDS PER YEAR TO MAINTAIN. HE INDICATED THAT THE UNACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIMARY TARGET IN THE SPRING BUDGET. TUC CHAIRMAN, DAVID BASNETT ALSO CALLED FOR ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND RE-ITERATED THE NEED FOR MORE AND BETTER JOB CREATION PROGRAMS. OFFICIAL ESTIMATES SUGGEST THAT THESE AND RELATED GOVERNMENT MEASURES KEPT 0.28 MILLION OFF THE JANUARY REGISTER.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES

JANUARY, 1978

	UK	GREAT BRITAIN
TOTAL (UNADJUSTED)	1.55M	1.485M
UNEMPLOYED	(PLUS 67,722)	(PLUS 5,000)
PERCENT OF WORKING POPULATION	6.4	(UNAVAILABLE)
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ADULT UNEMPLOYMENT	1.43M (PLUS 600)	1.37M
PERCENT OF ADULT	6.0	5.9

WORKING POPULATION

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	182,800	181,000
VACANCIES	(PLUS 20,100)	(20,000)

(FIGURES IN BRACKETS RELATE TO DECEMBER 1977) BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

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